

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling programming of portable programmed data carriers in a system having a plurality of programming stations, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a card object from a card issuer management system, wherein the card object ~~consists of~~ comprises information for programming the portable programmed data carriers;

receiving a programming request from the programming station; and

utilizing the card object to control the programming station as the programming station programs the portable programmed data carrier.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of acquiring data from a data source.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data source is the card issuer management system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of acquiring security services from a security source.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing support services.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a programming request comprises the steps of:

receiving a card object identifier; and

associating the card object identifier with the card object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of acquiring security services from a security source.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 10/693,836

Filing Date: October 23, 2003

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8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing support services.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of receiving a programming request comprises the steps of:

receiving a card object identifier; and

associating the card object with the card object identifier.

10. - 28. (Canceled)